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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/688,378

10/17/2003

Geoffrey E. Harrison

7784-000664

2248

27572

7590

11/03/2004

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EXAMINER

SAN MARTIN, EDGARDO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/688,378

Applicant(s)

HARRISON, GEOFFREY E.

Examiner

Edgardo San Martin

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 – 7, 10 – 16, 19 – 23 and 26 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (GB 2,273,131).

With respect to claims 1, 10, 11, 19, 20 and 28, Anderson et al. teach an aircraft engine assembly adapted to attenuate noise, the engine assembly comprising a nacelle including an inlet section coupled to a main section adapted to support an engine and fan assembly therewithin (Figs. 3, 4, 5(b) and 5(c)), and a one piece annular acoustic panel (Fig.2(b)), adapted to be tunable to match a noise signature of at least one of the engine and the fan assembly, that forms a segment of an internal wall of the nacelle, wherein the annular acoustic panel extends from a forward portion of the inlet section to a forward portion of the main section (Page 9, Line 1 – Page 10, Line 4 and Page 11, Line 8 – Page 12, Line 11).

With respect to claims 2 – 4, 12 – 14, 26 and 27, Anderson et al. teach the limitations discussed in the claims. In addition, the Applicant has not disclosed that extending the acoustic panel to a certain position solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well

extending the acoustic panel to a position near the fan assembly as disclose by Anderson et al.

With respect to claims 5 – 7, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, Anderson et al. teach wherein the annular acoustic panel is integrated within the internal wall of the nacelle such that an aerodynamically clean interior surface of a portion of the nacelle forward of the fan assembly is formed that is free from discontinuities, thereby reducing excrescence drag within the engine assembly, and wherein the multiple leak paths are substantially eliminated; and wherein the functionality of a fan blade containment structure included in the main portion of the nacelle is maintained (Figs 5(b) and 5(c); Page 9, Line 18 – Page 10, Line 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (GB 2,273,131) in view of Porte (US 6,761,245).

Anderson et al. teach the limitations discussed in a previous rejection, but fail to disclose wherein the engine assembly further includes an aft seal between an aft edge of the annular acoustic panel and one of a engine fan acoustic liner and a engine fan

wear strip, thereby forming an air tight seal around the aft edge of the annular acoustic panel.

On the other hand, Porte teaches an engine assembly comprising a seal (Fig.4, Item 11) between two sections of the engine assembly.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ Porte seal with the Anderson et al. design because the seal would not only allow noise attenuation performance to be improved by improving the air flow at the internal surface of the connections, but also would help prevent delamination of the edges faces of the sections.

Conclusion

3. The attached hereto PTO Form 892 lists prior art made of record that the Examiner considered it pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

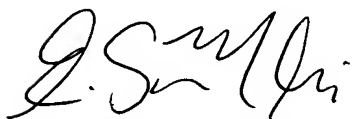
Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edgardo San Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2837

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. San Martín".

Edgardo San Martín
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2837
Class 181
October 31, 2004